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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/976,029	10/15/2001	Fumio Tamura	040894-5733	1548

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EXAMINER

BRANT, DMITRY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2655

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/976,029	TAMURA, FUMIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dmitry Brant	2655	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/15/2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/10/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hatano et al. (EP-0-935-123).

As per claim 1, Hatano et al. disclose an area name dictionary stored with area names (**Col. 11, lines 15-22 and 30-35**); a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities (**Col. 12, lines 34-42**); a facility name dictionary stored with facility names (**Col. 12, lines 13-18**); input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names (**elem. 200, FIG. 1**); identifying means for identifying names received and simultaneously distinguishing between area names and classified names as the occasion demands (**FIG. 4 & 5 show the flowcharts of the hierarchy (prefecture/city/facility, area code, etc) classification process - inherently the apparatus will contain software/hardware to follow this process of distinguishing between area names and classified names [genre]**); and extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said

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identifying means from said facility name dictionary (**elem 11, FIG 1 and Col. 5, lines 50-54**).

As per claim 6, Hatano et al. disclose input means for inputting voice (**elem. 200, FIG. 1**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **As per claim 2**, Hatano et al. disclose an area name dictionary stored with area names (**Col. 11, lines 15-22 and 30-35**); a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities (**Col. 12, lines 34-42**); a facility name dictionary stored with facility names (**Col. 12, lines 13-18**); input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names (**elem. 200, FIG. 1**); identifying means for identifying names received and simultaneously distinguishing between area names and classified names as the occasion demands (**FIG. 4 & 5 show the flowcharts of the hierarchy (prefecture/city/facility, area code, etc) classification process - inherently the apparatus will contain software/hardware to follow this process of distinguishing between area names and classified names [genre]**); and

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extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary (**elem 11, FIG 1 and Col. 5, lines 50-54**).

Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of “*extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof; and urging means for performing narrowing-down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof.*”

Halstead-Nussloch et al. teach **(1)** extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof (**Col. 6, lines 4-6 and FIG. 3**); and **(2)** urging means for performing narrowing-down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof (**Col. 6, lines 17-29**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al. as taught by Halstead-Nussloch et al. in order to allow the user to access results in small, specifiable “chunks”, without subjecting the user to an unwanted presentation of large number of results

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corresponding to the user's query, or forcing the user to further identify the desired item
(Halstead-Nussloch et al.: **Col. 2, lines 6-13**)

As per claims 3, 12-13, Hatano et al. disclose methods of operating and a system comprising: an area name dictionary stored with area names (**Col. 11, lines 15-22 and 30-35**); a classified name dictionary stored with classified names of facilities (**Col. 12, lines 34-42**); a facility name dictionary stored with facility names (**Col. 12, lines 13-18**); input means for receiving and taking in said area names, said classified names and said facility names (**elem. 200, FIG. 1**); identifying means for identifying names received and simultaneously distinguishing between area names and classified names as the occasion demands (***FIG. 4 & 5 show the flowcharts of the hierarchy (prefecture/city/facility, area code, etc) classification process - inherently the apparatus will contain software/hardware to follow this process of distinguishing between area names and classified names [genre]***); and extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary (**elem 11, FIG 1 and Col. 5, lines 50-54**).

Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of *"number-of-facility-names storage means for storing the number of facility names belonging to each area name and each classified name; extracting means for extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is*

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equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof; and urging means for performing narrowing-down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof.”

Halstead-Nussloch et al. teach: **(1)** number-of-facility-names storage means for storing the number of facility names belonging to each area name and each classified name (**Col. 6, lines 7-10; Inherently, the apparatus will contain some form of storage in order to keep the “threshold” in memory, which is six in this specific example, but certainly can be any other number**); **(2)** extracting a facility name belonging to the name identified by said identifying means from said facility name dictionary in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or smaller than the predetermined number thereof (**Col. 6, lines 4-6 and FIG. 3**); and **(3)** urging means for performing narrowing-down further in case where the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is greater than the predetermined number thereof (**Col. 6, lines 17-29**)..

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al. as taught by Halstead-Nussloch et al. in order to allow the user to access results in small, specifiable “chunks”, without subjecting the user to an unwanted presentation of large number of results corresponding to the user’s query, or forcing the user to further identify the desired item (Halstead-Nussloch et al.: **Col. 2, lines 6-13**)

As per claim 4, Hatano et al. disclose a case where the name identified by said identifying means is the classified name, said urging means urges the inputting of the area name and wherein said extracting means extracts a facility name belonging to both the area and classified names thus identified from said facility name dictionary (**see flow of elems. S59-S70, FIG. 9**).

Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of that this situation occurs when the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or greater than the predetermined number thereof..

Halstead-Nussloch et al. teach using thresholds to limit the size of the set of results (**Col. 6, lines 4-6**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al. as taught by Halstead-Nussloch et al. in order to let users select facilities from a large set of results using more specific identifiers, such as area names. This would allow the users to narrow-down a large set of genre (classified) results faster.

As per claim 5, Hatano et al. disclose case where the name identified by said identifying means is the area name, said urging means urges the inputting of a further

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detailed area name; and wherein when the name identified by said identifying means is the classified name, on the other hand, said urging means urges the inputting of the further detailed classified name. (**FIG. 9, further specification of area (prefecture, then address) and classification (other types of specifications - S59, S78, S82)**).

Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of that this situation occurs when the number of facility names extracted by said number-of-facilities extracting means is equal to or greater than the predetermined number thereof..

Halstead-Nussloch et al. teach using thresholds to limit the size of the set of results (**Col. 6, lines 4-6**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al. as taught by Halstead-Nussloch et al. in order to let users select facilities from a large set of results using more specific information. This would allow the users to narrow-down a large set of genre (classified) results faster.

As per claim 7, Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of urging means which report the number of facility names extracted by said extracting means. .

Halstead-Nussloch et al. teach urging means which report the number of facility names extracted by said extracting means (**Col. 6, lines 24-26 "Currently, there 10 states match your input"**).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al. as taught by Halstead-Nussloch et al. in order to notify the user about the size of the set of retrieved results. This would allow the user to narrow-down the set in a more effective manner, since the user would naturally attempt to use more specific information if the set was large (to narrow-down faster) and less specific information if the set was not too large (give more attention to individual results).

As per claims 8,9, Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of a facility retrieval apparatus, wherein names provided by combining a plurality of classified names are stored in said classified name dictionary and a facility retrieval apparatus, wherein negative names other than the classified names are provided in said classified name dictionary.

The examiner takes the official notice that is notoriously well-known in the art of database systems to construct queries either using Boolean operators, such as "AND" (combination of classified names) and "NOT" (negative names). For example, see user interface to any standard search engine, such as Google.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al., as it is well-known in the art, to allow user to search using well-known search Boolean operators, such as "AND" and "NOT." This

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would make user-machine interface more effective and allow the user to retrieve better-suited results from the system.

As per claim 10, Hatano et al. disclose a situation where when identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a name for the specifying purpose (**Col 16, lines 35-44**).

As per claim 11, Hatano et al. do not disclose the use of a situation wherein in case where said identifying means is unable to specify one name out of the names received, said urging means urges the inputting of a further detailed name belonging to the classified or area name as for the specifying purpose.

The examiner takes the official notice that it is notoriously well-known in the art to question the caller of a 411 service by asking him about the location/type of a place (classified name or area name) when the 411 attendant cannot directly identify the location by name. The same principle would apply to any user-machine dialogue. For example, whenever "maps.yahoo.com" cannot identify a specific address (such as 1600 Kings Street, Washington, DC), it presents the user with the closest identifiable match, such as the official center location of Washington, DC (area name).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hatano et al., as it is well-known in the art, to allow the

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user to specify more general information about the location (classified name or area name), so as to enable the system to provide the user with an alternative method of retrieving a facility location, even when that specific facility is not in the system's database.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fuji (6,763,332) teaches a user/machine interface for selecting a program in a broadcast.

Ishii et al. (5,956,684) teach a voice recognition apparatus for obtaining routes inside a vehicle.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dmitry Brant whose telephone number is (703) 305-8954. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (8:30am - 5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talivaldis Ivars Smits can be reached on (703) 306-3011. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Tech Center 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305- 4700.

DB

7/26/04


RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER